

REMARKS

Applicants request allowance of the pending claims. Original claims 1-40 are canceled and new claims 41-68 are presented for consideration in light of the remarks presented herein.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, assertedly because, "There is insufficient antecedent basis for limitation of said modifying step in the claim. The examiner interprets this claim to be dependent on claim 28." The new claims presented herein obviate the Examiner's rejection. Accordingly, applicants request its withdrawal.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 5 - 8, 11 - 13, 14, 15, 18 - 21 and 24 - 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) assertedly because they are being anticipated by Leshem *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,870,559. At pages 2-6 of the Official Action, Examiner Arshad asserts as follows:

"As per claim 1, Leshem *et al.* teach a method of organizing and displaying a plurality of hyperlink addresses associated with a plurality of corresponding web site pages on a portal page comprising the steps of: providing a visual representation of a map having a plurality of active areas thereon, said active areas representing individual hyperlinks or a plurality of hyperlinks having a common theme (see Leshem, figure 1, column 2, lines 25 - 41 and column 8, lines 49 - 58); and modifying said map to provide information regarding said common theme when a cursor is placed over one of said active areas (see Leshem, figure 3 and column 10, lines 32 - 35). As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Leshem teaches the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Leshem further teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: grouping said active areas such that active areas related by a common concept are placed on said map in close proximity to each other (see Leshem, column 2, lines 35 - 41). As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, Leshem teaches the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Leshem further teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: displaying a button which, when selected by a user, will re-display said map, without regard to where said user has navigated (see Leshem, figure 1 and column 16, lines 16 - 20; the examiner interprets sizing a map to fit within window as re-displaying the map without regards to where the user has navigated)."

In this regard, applicants urge that the new claims as presented herein obviate this rejection. Specifically, new base claim 41 condenses previous claims 1-4, and recites all of the steps included therein. Moreover, applicants note that the function of “sizing a map to fit within a window” in Leshem does not mean to re-display an original (portal) map. Instead, the meaning of Leshem is to re-format a map to fit at least a portion of the display screen of a user such that the information of that map is discernible to the user. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of the claims made under 35 §USC 102(b).

With respect to claims 5-26, Examiner Arshad asserts further, at pages 4-6 of the Official Action that

[A]s per claim 6, which is dependent on claim 1, Leshem teaches the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Leshem further teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: displaying a navigation bar having a plurality of buttons corresponding to said plurality of, active areas on said map (see Leshem, figure 1, item 46 and column 16, lines 14 – 22). As per claim 7, which is dependent on claim 1, Leshem teaches the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Leshem further teaches the method of claim 1 comprising the step of: temporarily displaying static images at random locations on said map (see Leshem, figure 2). As per claim 8, which is dependent on claim 1, Leshem teaches the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Leshem further teaches the method of claim 7 wherein said images contain hyperlinks to web pages (see Leshem, column 8, lines 49 – 58). As per claim 11, which is dependent on claim 1, Leshem teaches the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Leshem further teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of web site pages associated with said plurality of hyperlink addresses are culturally localized (see Leshem, column 8, lines 49 – 67). As per claim 12, which is dependent on claim 1, Leshem teaches the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Leshem further teaches the method of claim 11 further comprising the step of customizing said visual representation to provide a cultural theme, said cultural theme being associated with said plurality of culturally localized web site pages (see Leshem, column 9, lines 1 – 11). As per claim 13, which is dependent on claim 1, Leshem teaches the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Leshem further teaches the method of claim 12 further comprising the step of providing a link which, when activated, displays a listing of one or more other portal pages, each of which has a visual representation customized for a different culture (see Leshem, column 9, lines 1 – 11 and column 10, line 36 – 43; it is inherent that an HTML document will load with the visual representation customized for the culture indicated by the visual representation of the URL icon). As per claims 14, 15, 18 – 21 and 24 – 26, they are of similar scope to claims 1, 2, 5 – 8, and 11 – 13 respectively” and stand rejected assertedly because they are “under the same rationale.

In this regard, applicants reiterate the arguments presented herein regarding claims 1-5, and request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 §USC 102(b).

Claims 27, 30, 33 – 35, and 37 – 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) assertedly because they are “anticipated by de Hond, U.S. Patent No. 5,737,533.” At pages 6 – 8 of the Official Action, the Examiner argues that

As per claim 27, de Hond teaches a method of accessing a plurality of web site pages by collecting, organizing and visually presenting representations of a plurality of hyperlink addresses associated with said web site pages, said method comprising: displaying a plurality of buildings on a map layout wherein each of said buildings are representative of categories of information items having a common theme (see de Hond, column 8, lines 62 – 65); organizing each of said plurality of buildings into districts, said districts representative of a common concept among said buildings illustrated therein (see de Hond, column 9, lines 22 – 38). As per claim 30, which is dependent on claim 27, de Hond teaches the method of claim 27 (see rejection above). De Hond further teaches the method of claim 27 wherein said buildings represent a plurality of commercial or retail establishments (see de Hond, column 6, lines 56 – 59). As per claim 33, which is dependent on claim 27, de Hond teaches the method of claim 27 (see rejection above). De Hond further teaches the method of claim 27 further comprising the step of temporarily displaying static or moving images at random locations on said map (see de Hond, figure 7, item 100 and column 9, lines 5 – 15). As per claim 34, which is dependent on claim 33, de Hond teaches the method of claim 33 (see rejection above). De Hond further teaches the method of claim 33 wherein said images display advertisements for said commercial or retail establishments (see de Hond, figure 7, item 100 and column 9, lines 5 – 15). As per claim 35, which is dependent on claim 33, de Hond teaches the method of claim 33 (see rejection above). De Hond further teaches the method of claim 33 wherein said images contain hyperlinks to said commercial or retail establishments (see de Hond, column 9, lines 16 – 18).

As per claim 37, which is dependent on claim 27, de Hond teaches the method of claim 27 (see rejection above). De Hond discloses the step of displaying said hyperlinks in a textual fashion (see de Hond, column 2, lines 58 – 63). As per claim 38, which is dependent on claim 27, de Hond teaches the method of claim 27 (see rejection above). De Hond further teaches the method of claim 27 wherein said plurality of web site pages associated with said plurality of hyperlink addresses are culturally localized (see de Hond, column 9, lines 22 – 38). As per claim 39, which is dependent on claim 38, de Hond teaches the method of claim 38 (see rejection above). De Hond further teaches the method of claim 38 further comprising the step of customizing said map layout to provide a cultural theme, said cultural theme being associated with said plurality of culturally localized web site pages (see de Hond, column 9, lines 22 – 38). As per

claim 40, which is dependent on claim 39, de Hond teaches the method of claim 39 (see rejection above). De Hond further teaches the method of claim 39 further comprising the step of providing a link which, when activated, displays a listing of one or more other map layouts, each of which is customized for a different culture (see de Hond, column 9, lines 22 – 38).

In this regard, applicants note that de Hond, U.S. Patent 5,737,533, discloses a system for generating a virtual reality scene in response to a database search. In contrast, present base claim 41 recites A method of organizing and displaying a plurality of hyperlink addresses associated with a plurality of corresponding web site pages on a portal page comprising the steps of: (a) providing a visual representation of a map having a plurality of active areas thereon, said active areas representing individual hyperlinks or a plurality of hyperlinks having a common theme, wherein said active areas are shown as representations of buildings on said map and wherein said active areas are grouped such that active areas related by a common concept are located on said map in close proximity to one another; (b) modifying said map to provide graphical information regarding said common theme when a cursor is placed over one of said active areas; (c) displaying the interior of a building when said active area represented by said building is selected; and (d) displaying said plurality of hyperlinks having a common theme on the interior of said building. In other words, the methods of the present invention provide a depth of searching and informational capability not found in de Hond. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejections of all of the claims made under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 4, 16, 17 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) assertedly because they are unpatentable over Leshem et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,870,559 in view of Lynch et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,689,669. In this regard, applicants reiterate their arguments presented above regarding the Leshem and De Hond references. Moreover, applicants urge that present claims 41-68 distinguish over Leshem, or over Leshem when combined with Lynch.

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) assertedly as being unpatentable over de Hond, U.S. Patent No. 5,737,533 in view of Kelts, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0030667. In this regard, applicants reiterate their arguments presented above

regarding the Leshem and De Hond references. Moreover, applicants urge that present claims 41-68 distinguish over de Hond, or over de Hond when combined with Kelts.

Claims 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) assertedly as being unpatentable over de Hond, U.S. Patent No. 5,737,533 in view of Lynch et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,689,669. In this regard, applicants reiterate their arguments presented above regarding the Leshem, De Hond and Kelts references. Moreover, applicants urge that present claims 41-68 distinguish over de Hond, or over de Hond when combined with Lynch.

At page 12 of the Official Action, the Examiner asserts that

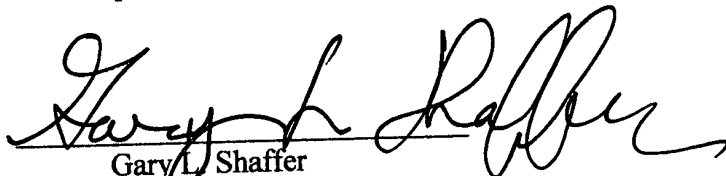
[A]s per claim 31, which is dependent on claim 27, de Hond teaches the method of claim 27 (see rejection above). De Hond does not teach the method of claim 27 further comprising the step of displaying a navigation bar. Lynch teaches the step of displaying a navigation bar (see Lynch, figure 3, item 180 and column 7, lines 5 – 18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Lynch with the method of De Hond in order to provide for an improved method of navigation through virtual space. As per claim 32, which is dependent on claim 31, de Hond and Lynch teach the method of claim 31 (see rejection above). De Hond does not teach the method of claim 31 wherein said navigation bar dynamically changes based on the position and/or interaction of a cursor with respect to said districts. Lynch teaches wherein said navigation bar dynamically changes based on the position and/or interaction of a cursor with respect to the location of the user (see Lynch, figure 3, item 180 and column 7, lines 5 – 18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Lynch with the method of De Hond in order to provide for an improved method of navigation through virtual space.

Applicants note that, in order for an assertion of obviousness to survive scrutiny, there must be some suggestion or specific teaching to combine the asserted references to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicant submit that no such teaching or suggestion exists in the asserted references. Accordingly, withdrawal of all of the rejections of record is solicited.

In view of the above, applicants urge that claims 1-40 are in condition for allowance and request a notice thereof. Moreover, applicants reiterate their request for a formal interview with Examiner Arshad. Applicants therefore request the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange such an interview.

Moreover, if any other matter can be resolved by telephone, Examiner Arshad is hereby requested to contact the undersigned as soon as possible, with any comments, questions or suggestions that he may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary L. Shaffer", written over a horizontal line.

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